

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-12 cancelled.

13. (Currently Amended) A money item acceptor comprising: a signal source to produce a money item parameter signal as a function of a sensed characteristic of a money item, a store to provide data corresponding to a normal acceptance range of values of the parameter signal for a money item of a particular denomination, the range including ~~relatively~~ high and low acceptance probability regions wherein the value of a parameter signal corresponds to a ~~relatively~~ high or low probability of an occurrence of a sensed money item of said particular denomination, and

a processor configuration operable to control a gate for directing money items towards an accept path or a reject path, the processor configuration further configured to determine when an occurrence of the parameter signal ~~corresponding to a first money item adopts a first predetermined value relationship falls within the low acceptance probability region~~, and in response thereto, to compare the value of a subsequent occurrence of the parameter signal corresponding to a second money item with data corresponding to a restricted acceptance range as compared with the normal acceptance range, and

~~to provide an output to the gate to direct corresponding to acceptability of the second money item towards the accept path when if the second occurrence of the parameter signal falls within said restricted acceptance range, and to provide an output to the gate to direct the second money item towards the reject path when the second occurrence of the parameter~~

signal falls outside said restricted acceptance range, said processor configuration being further configured operable

to determine when an occurrence of the parameter signal corresponding to a first money item adopts a second predetermined value relationship with a falls within an internal security range of values within said high acceptance probability region for a money item of a particular denomination, and in response thereto, to compare the value of a subsequent occurrence of the parameter signal corresponding to a second money item with data corresponding to an said internal security range within said restricted acceptance range, and to provide an output to the gate to direct corresponding to acceptability of the second money item toward the accept path when if the second occurrence of the parameter signal falls outside said internal security range, and to provide an output to the gate to direct the second money item towards the reject path when the second occurrence of the parameter signal falls within said internal security range.

14. (Currently Amended) An acceptor according to claim 13 wherein, said processor configuration is further configured, in response to said first money item parameter signal falling within the internal security range of values operable to determine when a first money item parameter signal adopts said second predetermined value relationship, and in response thereto, to compare subsequent occurrences of the parameter signal with said internal security range, and when if a first number of them correspond to acceptable money items, to discontinue comparison with the internal security range of values, and, after discontinuing comparison with the internal security range of values, and in response to a subsequent money item parameter signal falling within the internal security range of values

adopting said ~~second predetermined value relationship~~, to compare subsequent occurrences of the parameter signal with said internal security range, and

when if a second number of them correspond to acceptable money items, to discontinue comparison with the internal security range of values again, the second number being different from the first number.

15. (Original) An acceptor according to claim 14 wherein the second number is greater than the first number.

16. (Currently Amended) An acceptor according to claim 14 wherein the processor is ~~operable~~ to increment said first number by a predetermined amount to define said second number.

17. (Currently Amended) An acceptor according to claim 14 comprising a counter ~~configured~~ ~~operable~~ to count said first number and thereafter to count said second number.

18. (Currently Amended) An acceptor according to claim 17 wherein the processor ~~configuration is~~ ~~configured~~ ~~operable~~ to reset the count counted by the counter to a default count value in the event that there is no occurrence of a money item parameter signal within a predetermined security time period.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently Amended) An acceptor according to claim 13 wherein the processor ~~configuration is~~ ~~configured~~ ~~operable~~ to compare occurrences of the money item parameter signal with said internal security range for a first predetermined time period following an occurrence of the money item parameter signal that falls within said internal security range ~~has said second, predetermined value relationship~~, and then to discontinue comparison with the internal security

range of values.

21. (Currently Amended) An acceptor according to claim 20 wherein the processor configuration is configured operable, after discontinuing comparison with the internal security range of values, to compare occurrences of the money item parameter signal with said internal security range for a second predetermined time period following an occurrence of the money item parameter signal adopting said second predetermined value relationship falling within said internal security range, and then to discontinuing comparison with the internal security range of values range, said second time period being greater than the first time period.

22. (Currently Amended) An acceptor according to claim 21 wherein the processor is operable configured to define the second time period as a predetermined percentage increase of the first time period.

23. (Currently Amended) An acceptor according to claim 21 including a timer configured operable to time said first time period and said second time period.

24. (Currently Amended) An acceptor according to claim 21 wherein the processor configuration is configured operable to reset the time period timed by the timer to a default value in the event that there is no occurrence of a money item parameter signal within a predetermined security time period.

Claims 25-36 cancelled.

Please amend the abstract as follows:

~~An acceptor for money items such as coins or banknotes produces a money item parameter signal (x.sub.1) depending on a sensed characteristic of the money item. A store (12) provides window data corresponding to normal acceptance ranges of values of the parameter signal for a money item of a particular denomination (NAW), as well as restricted acceptance windows (RAW). A processor (11) determines when an occurrence of the parameter signal (x.sub.1) may represent a fraudulent money item and then for subsequent sensed money items compares the value of the parameter signals (x.sub.1) with the restricted acceptance range (RAW). The RAW range is used until n successive true coins are inserted or a time t has lapsed. After a fraudulent attempt, the values of n and t are increased so that a fraudster cannot then insert n true coins or wait a time t and attempt another fraudulent coin insertion. Also, a ~~foeuessed~~ focused rejection window (FRW) rejects coins with suspiciously close parameter signals, which could form part of a counterfeit set.~~

Please amend the following paragraphs in the specification: